

Name of the student:	Łukasz POLOCZEK
Title of the thesis:	Cooperating or bypassing the Member State? The paradiplomacy of the Visegrád regions in Brussels.
Reviewer:	Prof. Ivo ŠLOSARČÍK

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

Thesis maps cooperation between regional representations of Visegrad states in Brussels and permanent representation of Visegrad states to the EU. In relation to Visegrad states, thesis covers relatively under-researched problem.

Thesis is based on sufficient literature review and critical approach to state of art.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

Use of multi-level governance (MLG) as theoretical framework for research is sufficiently explained, as well as link between paradiplomacy and MLG.

Thesis is based on suitable methodology, including reflection of paradoxes of impact of covid-19 pandemics onto researched tools used (section 2.5.)

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

Thesis is structured into three interconnected sections: introduction into MLG within the EU, explanation and justification of methodology used, followed by detailed case-studies on selected regional representations (from PL, CZ and Hungary) in Brussels.

Several interesting findings, in particular on a gap between “paper-track” on cooperation and perception of stake-holders expressed in the interviews. Most interesting (and rather counterintuitive) case-studies on Hungary and Poland, including their comparison with academic debate on situation in old EU states.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

Thesis is written in fluent English and uses coherent citation style.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

Thoroughly written thesis properly based on current theoretical debate and own research.

Grade (A-F):	A
Date:	Signature:

classification scheme

Percentile	Prague		Krakow		Leiden		Barcelona	
	A (91-100)	91-100 %	8,5%	5	6,7%	8,5-10	5,3%	9-10
B (81-90)	81-90 %	16,3%	4,5	11,7%	7,5-8,4	16,4%	8-8,9	11,0 %
C (71-80)	71-80 %	16,3%	4	20%	6,5-7,4	36,2%	7-7,9	18,4 %
D (61-70)	61-70 %	24%	3,5	28,3%			6-6,9	35,2 %
E (51-60)	51-60 %	34,9%	3	33,4 %	6-6,4	42,1 %	5-5,9	30,1 %

Assessment criteria:

Excellent (A): 'Outstanding performance with only minor errors';

Very good (B): 'Above the average standard but with some errors';

Good (C): 'Generally sound work but with a number of notable errors';

Satisfactory (D): 'Fair but with significant shortcomings';

Sufficient (E): 'Performance meets the minimum criteria';

Fail: 'Some/considerable more work required before the credit can be awarded'.